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EDITORIALS BY JUDGE C. C. GOODWIN

Congress

THE brief session held by congress previous to the holidays gives no premonition of an effective working session later. Both parties are evidently already preparing for next summer's campaign, and the partisan shots already fired give no indication that either side is bent on any more serious business than to make a frame for a partisan platform next summer.

In view of what is going on in Europe, one would think that the anxiety of congress would be to prepare our country for what may come either through the involvements of the war or the changed conditions that will come with peace.

When peace does come, and it must after a while, then it seems to us that our institutions will be tried as never before. Our trade will be as is a ship when suddenly the gale that has been raging suddenly calls in its warring forces, and the ship is left without steerage-way tumbling amid still angered billows.

Has any statesman ever tried to compute how many men would be thrown out of work, were peace proclaimed tomorrow? When they are joined by thousands from the old world coming to us for labor and bread, what then?

What should this congress do? We would say: make a swift revision of the tariff and enable all manufacturers to resume work.

Select a few countries with which we need close trade relations and provide for ships to run regularly between our country and those countries for a term of years, and make them all American built ships. That would set three hundred thousand men at work which would represent one million five hundred thousand of our people.

Establish the inland depots and the coast guns for possible attack from without.

Make closer trade relations with friendly countries and include if possible such agreements as would give some thousands of men occupation in those countries.

Never mind next summer's nominations and elections. Leave them to God, the people and the newspapers.

To senators and representatives we would say: "Do not figure upon a possible nomination next year, but try to do something which will make the people turn to you and want you.

Ours should be the richest land on earth, if only its resources were put in form to be made available. We say, put them in form.

Some partisan shots are in order in congress, but while firing them remember that what the people want is really constructive work, not I told you so.

In the meantime our belief is that an appeal made by the congress of the United States to the warring nations abroad, setting up that, after all, reason should guide men and asking them to

call a truce and submit their difference to the Hague tribunal, would be the first step toward peace.

The sword; the entrenched gun; the fighting airship and the submarine assassin have all been tried during the past sixteen months, and so far as now can be seen have proved their impotency for everything save murder.

Is it not time for something else to be tried? And is not the congress of the United States representing one hundred millions of free men, an agent that would command consideration?

Christmas Week

FOR thousands of years the earth had rolled in space; nations had risen, run their courses and gone back into the silence of forgetfulness; the brains of many men had been cultivated to wonderful perfection; art had flourished to a degree never attained to since; wonderful poetry had been written; eloquence to enchant men had reached perfection; architecture had achieved triumphs to cause men to wonder if there was not a spirit in the irresponsible stone that had caused it to be transformed.

But the hearts of men remained cruel and cold. The law of might ruled everywhere; save a few, the people of the earth were all poor and all practically enslaved—a birth was nothing to rejoice over, a death nothing to regret.

Most of the nations had invented for themselves gods, for it is an instinct in man when he thinks to realize what an atom he is in nature and to want to lean upon some supernatural power. One race of men claimed that the true God had come to their fathers; relieved them from oppression; given them an inspired leader and a code for their government and had promised when the time should be ripe that a savior should come to them bearing the gift of everlasting life to such as should accept him.

But that people were as wretched as any other; they were ruled by kings and priests and in the rule no compassion was extended.

At last a man appeared who proclaimed himself the long promised Savior. But while He claimed to be the chosen one and to the last insisted upon His kingship; He came in humble guise; in His person He fulfilled none of the attributes which those who expected their savior should possess. He performed many wonderful works, but His walk was entirely with the poor; He never smiled but often wept; He chose only the poor for companions; He talked in a language not now spoken by men and made no notes of what he said, and after an active career of only three years He was arrested and slain.

But He was not forgotten. Rather other men rose up to proclaim His divinity; the cross on which He died became the symbol of His followers, and belief in Him has spread until now it embraces all the civilized nations of the earth.

During the past year the nations of Europe have seemed to forget Him and His teachings, but the prayers they offer over their multiplied dead are all in His name.

During the present week the anniversary of His birth is being celebrated. Over the wreck

which the great war is making men cannot see clearly why it should have been permitted or when it is going to end, but they reflect that with the Infinite "a thousand years are but as a day when it is past," and do not try to grasp the plan which inaugurated and is carrying on the present struggle, but turning back reflect that the only hope here and hereafter is through the promises made by their teacher when He dwelt among men.

So they return to the old rejoicings; they spread feasts and make gifts; they hail each other with happy greetings; in the churches robed priests are ministering, incense is burned, organ and choir awaken celestial music, Christmas bells are rung and Christmas carols sung, and the refrain as it floats away into space is the same everywhere—"Peace on earth, and to man, good will."

Would that it might pierce the serried ranks of men fighting beyond the sea, and melt their hearts into making a real and lasting peace.

Filled With Promise

BEFORE another issue of this journal appears the old year will be rung out, the new year in. They should be joy bells on this anniversary for all the portents for the coming year for Utah, are filled with cheer. The state is prosperous. The last harvest was a generous one; the granaries are full; there is universal health; new fields are being prepared for planting; new mines are being opened; the roads are being improved; the markets are widening; there are no clashing interests; the industries are marching hand and hand toward a greater volume and greater rewards. The state is steadily gaining in wealth and prestige and its manifold blessing in soil and climate and mines are beginning to single it out as one of the most prosperous of all the states. Because of its position Salt Lake City is the natural commercial capitol of a region greater in area than some of the world's great empires.

It is, too, steadily becoming an art center, an educational center, a great mining center, a great trade center; a great clearing house for business.

And still there is much that is shabby and unfinished in Salt Lake. It would be a great thing if some building association could take in and tear down a great many old houses and build new ones for sale and rent. The Hot Springs property should be improved and if rightly done would be a fortune to those who invested in it.

There should be a commission to investigate and readjust the food prices. The amount paid the producers and the amount charged consumers, are not nearly fairly proportioned. All these things are deciding factors with men contemplating making their residence in a place. The business men should help the government in removing everything objectionable from the progress of the city.

But in general terms the new year will open filled with auspices of good, and promises of profit to every legitimate enterprise that is being prosecuted here; promises of more trade; a greater yield from mine and field and orchard;